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ABSTRACT

Research shows that family involvement in education leads to long-term achievement, positive attitudes, and more effective schools. Families can participate in the schools in a number of ways. Parent involvement begins with teaching in the home when the child is small and continues through preschool programs. Once the child is ready for public education, parent involvement should continue. Issues of school choice are important in many communities, and parents must educate themselves to make wise choices. As school years progress, parents need to be aware of possible problems and to understand school procedures and what is expected of the child. Extra involvement is necessary, e.g., creating an individualized education plan, in the case of a learning disability. In addition to the specific help the parent's own child might require, parents have an obligation to help improve education for all children. Parent involvement should continue into programs and activities for time away from school, and it should continue, even though its focus may change, as the child enters middle school and high school. College preparation and preparation for work also require parent participation to ensure the best possible education for one's own child and other children. Resource organizations and suggestions for further reading accompany each chapter. (SLD)

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